

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AF-06 NEA-10 IO-11 /087 W

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R 151625Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2179

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BU GR

SUBJ: VISIT OF BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATHENS

1. BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV VISITED ATHENS JANUARY 12-14 AT THE INVITATION OF GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. THE VISIT PRODUCED FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERICS, AND IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, A GOOD DEAL OF FREINDLY MEDIA ATTENTION, AND AN UNREMARKABLE IF LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE'S STATEMENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ASCERTAINED THAT "THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PRETTY MUCH SUMMED IT ALL UP. FOR THE REST, THE COMMUNIQUE PROMISED INCREASED EFFORTS TO EXPAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (AS THE COMMUNIQUE STATES, TRADE BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEM DOUBLED IN 1975, BUT TRANSACTIONS STILL ONLY

AMOUNTED TO \$60 MILLION FOR THE FIRST 11 MONTHS) AND TO HEIGHTEN COOPERATION IN OTHER FIELDS SUCH AS CULTURE AND SCIENCE.

3. ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT, THE COMMUNIQUE PRODUCED NO SURPRISES, MANAGING TO SUBMERGE POLICY DIFFERENCES IN A SEA OF AMBIGUITY AND CLICHES. THE COMMUNIQUE READS AS FOLLOWS ON THE KEY ISSUES OF BALKAN COOPERATION, CYPRUS AND THE MIDDLE EAST:

--"THE TWO PARTIES...AGREED THAT THE PROMOTION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS IN THE BALKANS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE AREA", AND WOULD WORK IN THAT DIRECTION "AS WELL AS SUPPORTING MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF MULTILATERAL COOPERATION TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE BALKAN COUNTRIES. IN THIS SPIRIT IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECTORS IN WHICH SUCH A COOPERATION COULD BE EFFECTIVE SHOULD BE EXAMINED AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF EXPERTS, SUGGESTED BY PRIME MINISTER MR. CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS AND TO BE HELD IN

ATHENS ON JANUARY 16, 1976."

--"THE TWO PARTIES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS, A SOVEREIGN STATE AND MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS SITUATION POSES A DANGER TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE REGION. THEY DECLARED THAT WHATEVER THE FINAL SOLUTION, IT SHOULD BE PEACEFUL AND SECURE THE INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND THE NON-ALIGNED STATUS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. THE TWO PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS, AND UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT."

--"THE TWO PARTIES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND STRESSED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES AS WELL AS THE AXIOM THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACQUIRING OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE IS UNACCEPTABLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THE TWO PARTIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE EVACUATION OF ALL THE ARAB LANDS SEIZED IN 1967 AND FOR A SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD RESPECT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL THE PEOPLES IN THE REGION AND GUARANTEE THE NATIONAL ENTITY AND THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE."

4. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS, OF COURSE, SIGNIFICANT, GIVEN THE TURBULENT HISTORY OF THEIR PAST RELATIONS. IT IS, MOREOVER, A STATEMENT THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY TAKES SERIOUSLY, AS IT DOES BUILDING NEW AND POSITIVE RELATIONS IN THE BALKANS, A PROCESS THAT ACTUALLY BEGAN UNDER THE JUNTA BUT WHICH THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUING. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS00423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-0312
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760156/aaaabxed.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATHENS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BU, GR, (MLADENOV, YORDAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006